



MONTEREY NEWS



November 2004
VOLUME XXXIV • Number 11

The Town

The end of October winds up Halloween trick or treat, winds down Daylight Savings Time and major league baseball. The beginning of November will bring us down to earth on Election Day, even though flu shots that, before

the vaccine shortage, were also scheduled for that day have been scratched all over Berkshire County.

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors has been busy as can be. Chair Stanley Ross had an October 4 classification hearing with the Select Board to obtain public input prior

to establishing the percentage of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of property in the town for Fiscal Year 2005. Ross explained the current system, which uses a factor of 1 for all five classifications, meaning that residential, commercial, industrial, open space, and personal property classes all pay the same rate, based on full evaluation. The Assessors



Road building crew on Three Mile Hill, now Route 23 near Butternut Ski Basin (date unknown but probably circa 1930s. The photograph is courtesy of the New Marlborough Historical Society, from their 2004 calendar (their 2005 calendar is now available at the Bookloft in Great Barrington). The Society is preparing a book of historic photographs, culled from private collections.

recommended that there be no change in the existing classification rates, and the Select Board unanimously agreed.

The Assessors are working with an outdated map system that needs to be brought up to date, and have consulted with Carto Graphics Association, one of several firms that specialize in modernizing town maps using digital format.. The Assessors are also working with an eye toward 2006 for reevaluation, though the state Department of Revenue may move up that schedule for Monterey lake properties that have accelerated so much in value. Bad tax news for some, but lower rates for the town.

Open Space and Affordable Housing

The Select Board met with Wendy Sweetser of Highland Communities Initiative of Williamsburg, Massachusetts, a group associated with the Trustees of Reservations, and she expressed a willingness to work with the Board on a grant proposal to fund open space and affordable housing, due October 29. Sweetser also recommended that a citizen committee be appointed to work on these issues.

After the usual Monday morning session on October 18th, the Board met

for their first scheduled night meeting to review Bob Lazzarini's research report "Maintaining the Green," which gives some indication of Monterey's possible development future. Bob presented charts and projections showing the following breakdown of the 16,951 total acres of land in Monterey: there are 1,246 parcels of 40 acres or less in private hands, which equal 6,262 total acres; there are 71 parcels of more than 40 acres, totaling 10,689 acres. Beartown Mountain State Forest has the largest holding, 4,820 acres, all of which is protected; the Monterey Land Trust holds 874 protected acres. Other large holdings include Gould Farm (546 acres), Keswick (388 acres), and The Bidwell House (195 acres). Bob's report of parcel sizes, land values, cost of roads, utilities, and present zoning add up to the town's vulnerability to development.

Wilson-McLaughlin House Committee Report

The Wilson-McLaughlin House Committee reported that they have another new member, Jim Edelman. They have consulted with the new Town Counsel, Jerome Scully (who had visited the Select Board to meet them in person just the week before). Scully was helpful in guiding the committee to set up a "Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin Fund" as a non-profit entity that can solicit and channel

contributions. He also helped with spelling out guidelines in accordance with the spirit of the bequest of the property to the Town to permit optional uses, such as for a community center or as a school site, with additional adjoining building, which can be done provided the front of the house preserves the original frame and character. The costs of immediate and remedial restoration of deterioration must be provided by proposal at Town Meeting. More coming! (See article on p. 4.)

Community Policing Grants

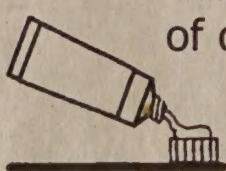
Community Policing Grants have been applied for to provide a target schedule of spot checking for the wearing of seat belts, and for driving when intoxicated. Additional enforcement will be imminent here, because not wearing a seat belt is more consequential in country driving, and half of all vehicular deaths are due to drunk driving. Be careful!

Lois Storch Appointed Library Trustee

Linda Thorpe, representing the Library Trustees, met with the Select Board on October 18th to appoint a new Library Trustee to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Kathleen Bracken. (When there is a resignation by a member of an elected town board, an interim replacement is appointed by the board involved

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Route 23 Monterey

The Monterey News is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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and the Select Board until the next annual town election.) The Trustees had already voted to have Lois Storch appointed to fill the vacancy until next May's election, and the Select Board agreed, so Ms. Storch was duly appointed.

Meeting Minutes on Web Site

At last, you have an easily accessible way to get the scoop on what really happens in those Select Board meetings. You can now find meeting minutes and other information on the Town's web site, monterey-ma.org.

Winter Road Closings

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes has announced that the following roads or **sections** of roads will be closed during the winter months and will not be plowed or sanded.

Wallace Hall Road

Part of Wellman Road

Part of Beartown Road

Part of Chestnut Hill Road

Part of Carrington Battelle Road

Part of Swann Road

Part of Gould Road

— George Emmons

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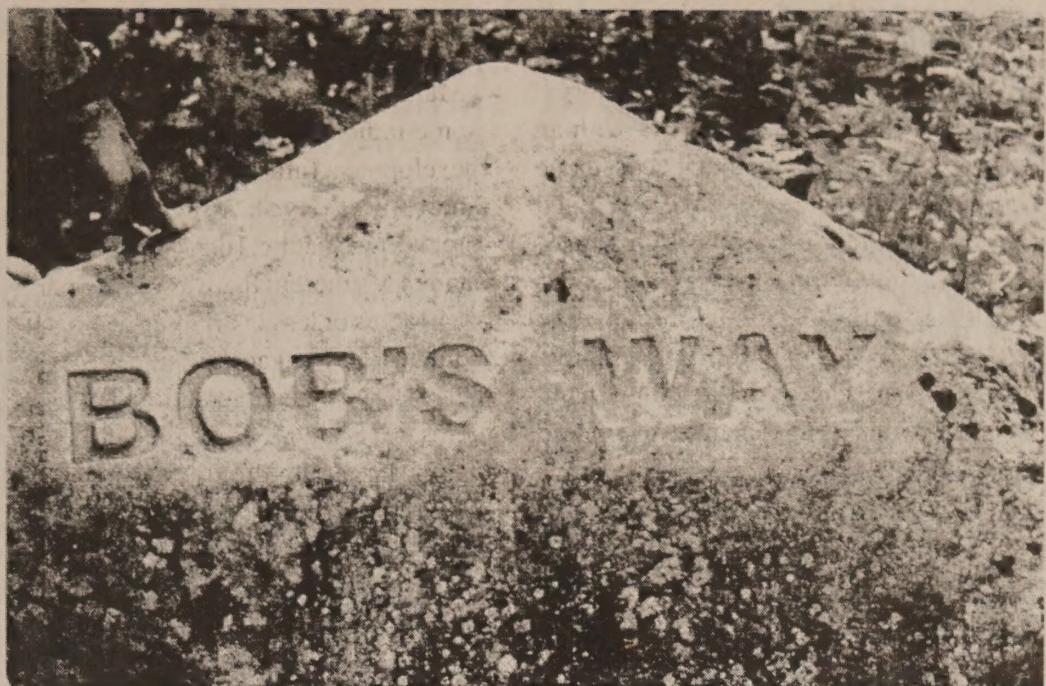
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Julie Ross



Trailhead marker for Bob's Way, named in memory of Bob Thieriot, beckons hikers to try the new trail in Monterey.

Help for Monterey Elders!

Need a helping hand getting ready for winter? Lack of funds shouldn't keep you from keeping warm. The Giving Barn, in conjunction with MillKey Hardwoods Inc. is offering a limited schedule of assistance. Need to get your storm windows in—or plastic over your basement windows—or the garage or barn cleaned out to make room for your car? If you can supply the materials MillKey Hardwoods will supply the labor on a volunteer basis for Monterey Seniors who otherwise would not get the work done.

Assessors' Office Hours

The Assessors' Office will be open during the following hours:

Wednesdays, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., by appointment only. To set up, please call 413-528-6481

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., no appointment necessary.

Let us help you get ready for the cold and snow. Please call Debbie at 644-8926 to get scheduled in soon.

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Wilson/McLaughlin House Committee Monthly Report

I am a new member of the Committee and have volunteered to keep townfolks abreast of our progress with a monthly column in the *Monterey News*. The committee is made up of Shirley Olds, chair; Gig O'Connell, Gerry Shapiro, Cynthia Weber, Joe Baker, Lew Scheffey, Evelyn Vallianos, Jim Edelman, and myself. Committee members have been appointed by the Select Board to aid in the information gathering and decision making for the Wilson/McLaughlin House Project.

We are intent on receiving input from all the various town boards and officials who have an interest in this project in an effort to determine the needs and wants of the town, and we will be soliciting ideas from all Monterey citizens as well. To date we have met twice with the Select Board, twice with the Park Commission, and once with the Planning Board. A letter has been sent to town council (and reply received) asking for clarification on a number of legal questions that have been raised, and an engineer has been consulted. I am very impressed with the can-do attitude of the committee and all others we've met with.

In my estimation, Edith was always a bit of a rascal, and she has presented us all with a challenge. She has left the town her farmhouse and a 28.6-acre parcel of

land, with the stipulation that the house be maintained in good condition and used for municipal purposes. We have to create our own funding to do the work. She suggests in her will that the house be used for such things as a meetinghouse, town hall, exhibition hall, etc., and that the land be for recreational and park uses.

Nine years have passed since her death. The town has voted to accept Edith's generous gift, and a number of committees have wrestled with the question of what to do with her house. Meanwhile, it has been unoccupied and in a state of physical decline.

There are many ideas about what the house could be used for, but it seems that it is firstly most important to consider the long-term needs of the town. The committee is in an investigating mode, asking, asking, and asking. As a town, what do we want, what do we need, what are we going to be needing, and how can this valuable gift be most wisely and successfully used in the long run?

Our findings and determinations will be presented at several public meetings over the winter with the aim of presenting a general plan for use and funding at the May 2005 Town Meeting.

Please feel free to contact any committee member with your thoughts on this important town resource; the earlier in the process we get ideas, the easier it will be to coordinate a plan of action.

— Susan Sellew



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Support Nonprofit Organizations with Your Holiday Shopping

As the holidays approach, if you are asking yourself, "How can I reflect the true values behind the giving season?" please consider joining us at Gould Farm on Saturday, November 27.

Browse a selection of artisan crafts from SERRV International. Christmas tree ornaments, jewelry, candles, natural soaps, and much more. SERRV markets fairly traded handcrafts from around the world.

Ten percent of the sales of SERRV artisan crafts will go to Partners in Health, an organization that provides primary health care in the central Haitian village of Cange. Partners in Health operates a number of programs, including a full-service hospital, rural Haiti's only HIV/TB treatment facilities, a women's health center, a dozen schools, and several cottage industries.

Support a local organization by creating a gift basket of Gould Farm products for a friend or family member. Mix and match pancake mix, maple syrup, mint tea, and more. Gould Farm is a local, nonprofit therapeutic community where people live and work as they live with depression, bipolar depression, and schizophrenia.

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Exchange Politics for Potlucks Community Dinner Nov. 10

By November 10th the elections will be over, and we can turn our attentions back to our local community with the first Monterey Community Dinner of the season. Join us from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Monterey Meetinghouse, Route 23 and Tyringham Road, for good company and, of course, good food.

Last year every Community Potluck was well attended and we had a stellar program of speakers and performers. This year promises to be just as interesting and entertaining. We will begin the series on November 10th with Ralmon Black, Mary Ward's nephew and member of the Williamsburg Historical Society. He will speak about the great Williamsburg Flood that occurred on May 16, 1874, when an industrial dam broke, killing 139 people in the town of Williamsburg, Massachusetts. Through his work with the Historical Society, Black assisted in researching

Join us on Saturday, November 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Harvest Barn of Gould Farm. Contact Shelly Ungemach at 413-528-1114 or Liz Garrigan-Byerly at 413-644-0041 with any questions.

Gould Farm is located off of Route 23 in Monterey.



historic documents and photographs for the book *In the Shadow of the Dam* by Elizabeth M. Sharpe, and he will discuss some of the sleuthing methods they used to bring the facts of this disaster to light.

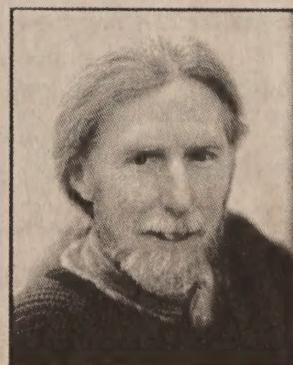
This year the potlucks will take place on the second Wednesday of the month from November through May. Watch the *Monterey News* for program information. The church's answering machine (528-5850) will also have cancellations and postponements recorded.

As always, everyone is welcome. Please bring something that serves six to eight people to share for the potluck, a utensil for serving it, and plate and silverware for yourself. We begin as close to 6:00 as possible and try to finish the evening around 8:00. We are always grateful to those who stay a bit later to help clean up, and we are still looking for volunteers to occasionally set up and decorate the tables. Please call Dianna Downing at 528-3381 if you would like to help. See you there!

— Dianna Downing

30

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A Giant Makeup Session

Thanks to General Store

With all the thanks and acknowledgments given to the supporters of LakeFest, for the second year in a row the Monterey General Store was not listed among the Monterey business contributors. How could this be? Two strikes we're out? I hope not. It's my fault. Somehow, in "cutting and pasting" from html language for the web site to text for the articles and emails . . . the ethernet ate it?

The contributions of Riccardo Boehm, Kenn Basler, and Bonnie Marks have been central to the success of LakeFest.

In addition to a cash contribution toward the fireworks from Riccardo, Kenn and Bonnie put up with the clutter of poster sales on the porch where their customers were delayed, poster sales within the store that had to be accounted for separately, and constant requests for posting signs and placing stacks of flyers inside the store on precious wall and shelf space. Then, in addition and of great importance, they provided discounted

Edie Ross



Janet Cathcart with her daughters at opening of Bob's Way hiking trail, which leads to Cathcart Crossing and Dave's Bench, in memory of Dave Cathcart.

food and supplies for the potluck! How could we have missed saying thank you as loudly as possible?

THANK YOU!

While I'm at it, a personal note: When my husband and I decided to buy our property in Monterey, the presence of a store in a town with a central core were "deal-makers" for us. Dave said he wanted to be in a town where he could walk to the store and buy the *New York Times* and feel that he knew people and would see friends. Monterey met that test.

Out of uncertainty and turbulence Riccardo has salvaged and expanded the

store in wonderful ways—the extra space, the porch, the general upkeep and well-being of the building are so nice. I think Bonnie and now Kenn have brought lots of wonderful new things to the inventory and improved the functioning of the store. I appreciate their efforts to better understand what their customers want while maintaining viability as a "going concern" in the process. Our town is benefiting so much by their efforts. We need them. We thank them.

— Janet Cathcart



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New Incentives for Renewable Electricity

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is participating in Clean Energy Choice, a new statewide program that offers matching grants to towns based on citizen participation in choosing clean energy. Towns will be able to use the grants for renewable energy projects that benefit the community. CET's renewable energy option, GreenerWatts New England, is available to Massachusetts Electric Company customers. GreenerWatts New England supports electricity generated from solar, wind, low impact hydropower, and biomass (landfill-gas methane).

More than one million Massachusetts Electric Company customers will receive notices with their electricity bills informing them of the company's GreenUp program, which gives consumers an opportunity to sign up for clean energy choices. Massachusetts Electric Company residential and small business customers can make payments through GreenUp or directly to a renewable energy supplier.

Through the Clean Energy Choice grants program, for every dollar a citizen or small business pays for GreenerWatts New England, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) will match 30% of this amount to the citizen's city or town for clean energy projects. A bonus

payment of \$50 per participant will be made if the town achieves at least 3% participation. The program is planned to continue through June, 2005. For example, Great Barrington has already exceeded 3% participation. Among those with at least 2% are Egremont, Monterey, Sheffield, and Williamstown.

These grant funds can be used for a variety of clean energy projects, including solar lighting, a solar photovoltaic system, clean energy educational materials, or building analysis and improvements. Clean Energy Choice is a program of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, a public agency of the Commonwealth and administrator of the Renewable Energy Trust.

To further encourage participation, CET is offering a special prize of \$5,000 toward a solar electric system to four communities in western Massachusetts with the highest percentage of enrollees in GreenerWatts New England. CET is sponsoring this friendly competition

through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to promote solar energy through education and demonstration projects.

Now, for approximately \$5 to \$15 per month, by participating in GreenerWatts New England, you are also investing in your town's renewable energy future. CET will provide a special prize so that the rural communities of western Massachusetts can accumulate enough money for a solar installation through the positive efforts of their citizens. Seeing is believing, and we are excited that this new program will result in new renewable energy projects throughout western Massachusetts.

CET, a community based nonprofit organization has focused on energy conservation and renewable energy for twenty-eight years. For more information, contact me at 413-445-4556, ext. 13, or Raya Ariella, ext. 17, or visit www.GreenerWattsNewEngland.com.

— Laura Dubester, CET

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Gould Farm News

At its recent annual meeting, the board of directors and associates of Gould Farm elected Steven Kahn of Monterey and New York and Larry Gentile, III, of Orlando, Florida to the board. Neil Ellenoff of Monterey was elected treasurer and Ed Abrahams and Ellen Rowntree of Great Barrington; William "BJ" Johnson, Harry Mann, and Michael Storch of Monterey; Peter Sachs of West Newton; Craig Wilder of Dartmouth, New Hampshire; and Audrey Wilner of Mill River and New York were elected as associates.

Neil Ellenoff is a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania and Columbia Law School. He is a member of the New York Bar Association and is a CPA both in New York and Pennsylvania. Mr. Ellenoff has been a Gould Farm board member for four years and has served on the Finance Committee during that time.

Larry Gentile is an attorney in Orlando, Florida. A graduate of The Citadel, he earned two Masters of Law degrees—one in Criminal Justice and the other in Labor Law—from NYU Law

School. He served on the National Labor Relations Board and was an Assistant District Attorney in both New York and Florida. Mr. Gentile has also been involved in many facets of the restaurant business, including training, food preparation supervision, and regulatory issues and has been certified in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (food safety) by the Culinary Institute of America.

Steven Kahn is president of the Max Leather Group/Cipriani Accessories (New York). He is involved in local Monterey activities and, as a Gould Farm associate, is chairing the Farm's seventh annual dinner dance, which will be held in April 2005.

Ed Abrahams, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and a fund-raising consultant, is on the board of directors of the Community Health Program and has been an active volunteer with the Railroad Street Youth Project, Berkshire South Community Center, Interlaken School 183, and the Rudolph Steiner School.

William "BJ" Johnson is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Northeastern University (MBA) and has served as CEO of Digital Equipment Corporation and general manager of a division of IBM. His business experience includes corporate restructuring, business strategies, marketing, and engineering.

He was chosen as one of "25 Most Influential"—Industry Visionary, Communication Week (1990) and received a NASA Achievement Award, Apollo Project (1969). He is on the boards of NETSilicon, Inc., in Waltham; Cymbia, Austin, Texas; and Berkshire Wine Co., Great Barrington. He has published "Anything, Anytime, Anywhere: The Future of Networking," *Technology 2001*.

Harry "Budd" Mann retired from business in Doylestown and spent eight years working as a paralegal for the Gay Men's Health Crisis. He is currently involved with Tuesday's Angels, a non-profit organization in Florida that helps AIDS patients who have no financial resources. Mr. Mann has been involved with Gould Farm for several years.

Ellen Rowntree recently retired after thirty years of clinical practice as a psychiatrist/psychoanalyst in Westchester County, New York, and as Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Rowntree grew up in a community on the grounds of a large state hospital in Rhode Island where her mother was clinical director/assistant superintendent. She had the opportunity to participate in patient activities and events including those related to the large hospital farm. Dr. Rowntree comments: "Although Gould Farm is different in many ways, there are

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some important similarities. I am interested in learning more about this and how the guests are changed by the Gould Farm experience both while they are guests at the Farm and long term."

Peter Sachs received a Masters in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and has an architectural practice in the Boston area. Prior to that he had an architectural firm and construction company in New York City for eleven years. Gould Farm's Harvest Barn was built according to an initial plan he developed.

Michael Storch has retired from a career as sales manager with the Konica Photo Imaging Company and is presently a Selectman for the Town of Monterey. He served on both the elementary and high school boards when his children were in school and is chairman of the Hevreh Synagogue House Committee.

Craig Wilder is a professor of history at Dartmouth and a former assistant professor of history at Williams College, where he chaired the African-American Studies Program. He holds a PhD, a Master of Philosophy, and a Master of Arts, all from Columbia University and a BA

from Fordham University. Dr. Wilder is a widely published essayist and the author of three books on the black experience. He was recently awarded the University Medal of Excellence from Columbia.

Audrey Wilner, a retired attorney, is a graduate of Queens College with a BA, NYU with an MA, and St. John's with a JD. She has served as vice-chair of the board of Echo Hills, a community mental health agency in Westchester County and has been involved with Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Westchester (the hospital has a major interest in both in- and outpatient mental health treatment). Mrs. Wilner has held the position of vice-chair of the Phelps board and currently chairs the hospital's Quality Assurance Committee. Her involvement with Gould Farm began as a member of the dinner dance committee.

Gould Farm is a psychosocial rehabilitation facility that provides comprehensive services to adults with chronic mental illness. In operation since 1913, the Farm operates on 100 of its 650 acres of farmland and woodland in Monterey and in the suburban community of West Medford. The Farm has a long history of providing successful treatment for individuals with schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorder, bipolar disorder, and depression.

—Rita Kasky

Contributors

We are most grateful to the following readers for recent contributions to support the *Monterey News*. Thanks, folks.

Sally & Steve Pullen

Rosanne Murray

Fred & Margaret Vorck

Shirley & Charles Dolby

Judith Mortenson

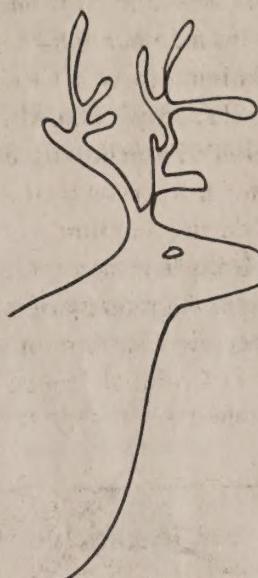
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Young Lara, with her refugee parents, finds herself marooned in an isolated, snowbound little hotel in Norway before WWII. Left alone, she is befriended by two eccentric elderly Englishmen, who teach her to ski, and receives deep love and wisdom from the grandfatherly carpenter Andreas, who teaches her that Christmas is really a universal event open to every heart and every faith. A luminous story by the author of THE BEEJUM BOOK.

Selection of Recent Arrivals at the Monterey Library

Below is a list of some of the new titles received recently at the Monterey Library. There are many others—check them out!

Adult Fiction

Russell Banks, *The Darling*
Christopher Bohjalian, *Before You Know Kindness*
Joshua Braff, *Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob*
Ellen Cooney, *Gun Ball Hill*
Stephen Coonts, *Saucer*
Khaled Hosseini, *Kite Runner*
Susan Isaacs, *Any Place I Hang My Hat*
Stephan Kallos, *Broken for You*
Mark Mills, *Amagansett*
Anita Shreve, *Light on Snow*
Muriel Sparks, *The Finishing School*

Children

Kimberly Fusco, *Tending to Grace*
Jean Craighead George, *Charlie's Raven*
Lesléa Newman, *A Fire Engine for Ruthie*



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Green Corner New Englanders Divided on Leaf Issue

Driving through Great Barrington recently, I noticed a woman outside raking leaves. This time of year, New Englanders can be divided based on what we do with fallen leaves. Some folks ship them off to the landfill (despite a state-wide ban on throwing away yard waste) and some burn them. Then there are mulchers and composters.

I'm a composter, and before I knew it I had asked the woman what her plans

Stephan Greene, *Owen Foote, Mighty Scientist*

Jon Scieszka, *Da Wild, Da Crazy Da Vinci*

Adult Nonfiction

Linda Bloodworth-Thomason, *Liberating Paris*

Augusten Burroughs, *Magical Thinking*

Donald Justice, *Collected Poems*

Farley Mowat, *No Man's River*

John E. O'Neill, *Unfit for Command:
Swift Boat Veterans Speak out against John Kerry*

Richard Rhodes, *John James Audubon:
The Making of an American*

were. She seemed overjoyed to give them to me and watched as I stuffed twenty very full bags into my little car. "Will you be able to see where you are going?" She asked, not sure she wanted me to change my mind.

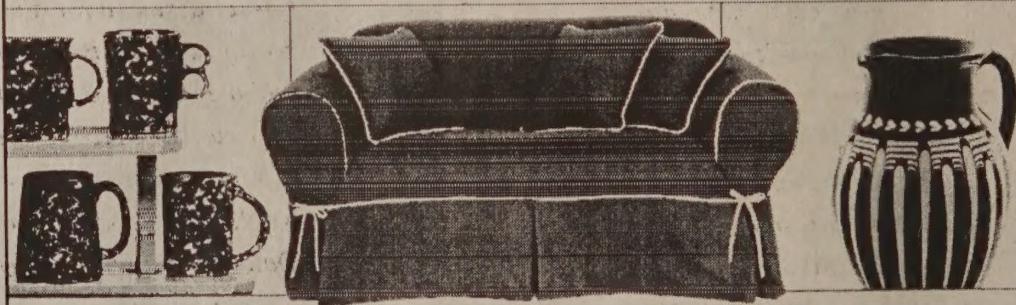
I see very clearly where I am going. When leaves are allowed to decompose in your garden or lawn, they fortify the soil. When landfilled, leaves decompose without oxygen and so produce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Burning leaves also contributes to the harmful accumulation of greenhouse gases. For both these reasons, leaves and yard waste are best left out of the trash. If I can save a leaf from the burn pile or landfill, I will. Call me crazy if you want, but I'd just as soon have an ample stash of fall leaves to compost as money in the bank.

For information on becoming a composter, contact, Raya Ariella at CET, 413-445-4556 ext 17 or visit: <http://www.cetonline.org/Publications/new-compost.pdf>

—Ruth Dinerman, CET



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The Leaf

*It came from the fall
of the great beech tree —
I found it pressed in her Bible
all these years later.*

*I remember now
it was to remind me
of the holiness
of all hopeless love.*

— A. O. Howell

Ode To A Cricket

(dedicated to Neruda)

*lover of warmth
mandolin player
brings sense of peace
good listener
with ear at his elbow
delight in merriment
listens to the stars at night
remarkable legs
that run before he can walk
clicking quickens
as twilight thickens
heralds autumn
a taste for melon
and sweet apple
insists on clean antennae
no wings, can't fly away
but can scramble
out of sight
plaintive song for dying year
is a comfort in loneliness
merry with dancers
sidewise working jaws
makes himself at home
earthy troubadour
champion jumper — track or field
in his elegant and shiny
black patent leather clothes.*

from the Lost Letters of Baby Rolo and Bro Nello

Bro Nello,

Nov.

I've got the two babies from Montalcino as was the plan. Get plenty of rest. Night beckons from behind her dark curtain and Destiny promises to pour the finished ferment of our fields upon our crystal bowls. Tell me again how you love to breathe and hold their dark brown hands.

*Descending
Baby Rolo*

Baby Rolo,

Nov.

She is my love for sure, though I will never speak to her. As for rest, I'll do what I can, considering the season. We must gather what we can before the world turns hard. At any rate, I look forward to communion with the beast, the barley, and the babies.

*Leafless
Bro Nello*

Baby Rolo,

Dec.

The dawn of latter days is upon me! I've suddenly become aware of the song's ending. It shouldn't be like this — we should dance forever! Isn't there some stew of roots, some leafy brew, some extract of vine to hold these notes? — bend them awhile? — retain the refrain? — revamp the vamp eternal? — prove the groove has no beginning or end? My feet are just now heating up, my legs so limber...

*Distraught
Bro Nello*

Bro Nello,

Dec.

I never assumed for a moment that you were a Buddhist, but I'm not so sure that they know how to boogie either. As for the stew and the brew and the extract, it is what you're stirring at this very moment! How could I argue the true taste of turnips? Why would I waver from any sip of the day's tea? Where or when would I deny the intimate complexities of our ruby raisings? Dance on Bro Nello — Think not — Prove the groove!

*Your Savior
Baby Rolo*

— R. Zukowski

— Nancy Adams

Life inside the Wall: the I-and-Thou Mouse Fantasy

This is the way I imagine it. Fall comes. The little deer mice find it increasingly difficult to fill their bellies in the great outdoors (my garden included) so they head for the house (just like me). Here they can be sure, fall after fall, that the guest room in the cellar will be stocked with winter sustenance: baskets of winter squash, apples, dry beans, even dogfood. If this diet becomes boring, there is always the short trip upstairs to the kitchen, where the compost bucket beckons and the cupboards are safe dark sources of cereal, crackers, bread. You may have to dodge a cat or two in the nighttime kitchen, but doesn't that just add frisson to the foraging?

The life of a deer mouse is a good one in our pantry. But then one day, a new molecule sparks the nasal radar. What is that irresistible memory, that forbidden fruit? Yes! It is peanut butter, usually only found in impenetrable jars, now for the first time in limited mouse memory available down a little aluminum tunnel with a strange tripwire at the far end. Click, crash, the door is closed. All the better! Safe and dark, just me and the half-teaspoon of heady nut butter, says the mouse.

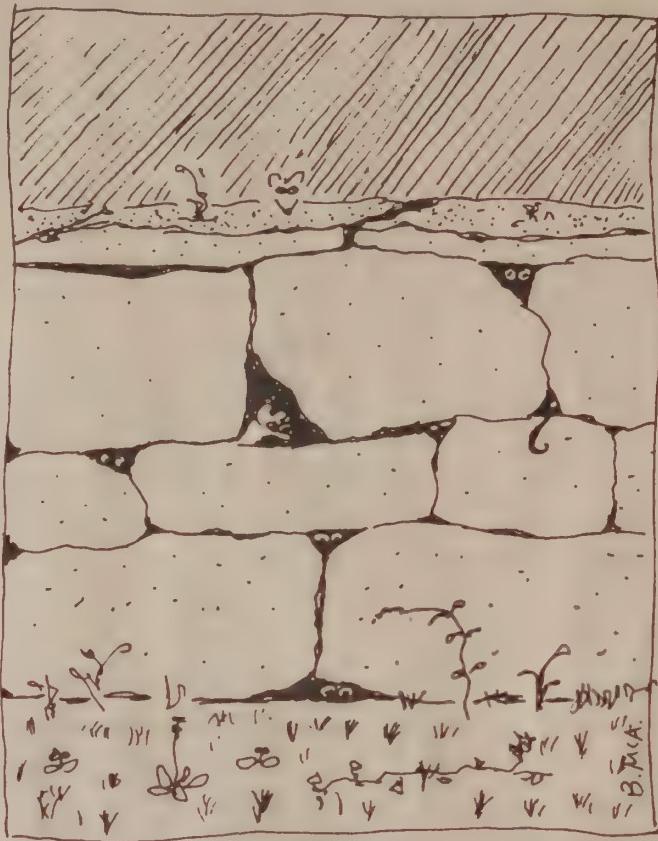
When the treat is gone, though, reality sets in. No escape. Nibble on metal, sore teeth; scrabble at walls, tired toenails. Settle down to wait, the way wild things do when there is nothing else for it.

Morning, heavy footsteps, earthquake! Noises and talk, more jarring, an

for the first time in eternal hours. What to do? Retreat to the back of the box, where there once was peanut butter (now less than a memory), or take the leap off the edge of the world into . . . the stone wall.

It's a little chilly, it's dark. Many mice have been here and some are still here. There is birdseed! Also hulled organic sunflower seeds. Run along the passageways, nose full of familiar personalities. Yes, here are aunts and uncles, children and parents. Some have been long gone and some only since last week. How did they get here? Never mind! Scurry along the scent lines to the sweet relief of reunion with greeting and grooming. The messages come thick and fast: this wall is a good place, full of family. No cats in here, nice nights of moonlight and wintergreen berries in the nearby cemetery. Almost daily deliveries of more seeds and more dear relatives. Who needs the guest room and the cupboards? This is the life for a mouse!

That is how I imagine it, these past thirty years, as I trap and relocate the fall mice. I know that technically this constitutes wildlife harassment and I could be ticketed for it, for meddling. A snap-trap, a cat, a shotgun—those final solutions that I don't like to take on—those are all legal. I make my own laws in this seasonal mouse drama, though, and palm off the final



unimaginable roar and onslaught of electromagnetic fields—it seems endless. More wild waiting. Then sudden quiet, stillness, before the final upset as the little door opens and fresh air comes in a flood

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episode to The Wall. Is it that I am not woman enough to take a life? I don't think so. Many a mouse has got in the way of our cats and been delivered to the chopping block by me, released to a better place with one quick stroke. In some of these life-and-death stories we get to draw our own compromises, make up our own minds how far we will go down that awesome path of terminal responsibility.

I love The Wall because I don't actually know what goes on inside there. Could be there is a weasel that jumps for joy at my coming. One lone winter predator building her strength through the cold times until she gives birth to the next bright-eyed generation, the messenger of weasel-ness, the unique genetic carrier programmed by her and fueled by mice. I prefer my fantasy of happy reunion, mouse-family style, but I don't mind the weasel story either. I like these versions better than the snap-trap and the compost pile, though even these are not the end of the line. As long as there is no end, at least not engineered by me. That's what I say: let me not be the one to snuff it out for all time.

— Bonner J. McAllester

CET Hosting Free Computer Disposal Day

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET), in cooperation with the City of Pittsfield, Lenox Environmental Committee, Lee Recycling Committee, and Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District will hold a free collection of unwanted computers on Saturday, November 6, 2004, at the Pittsfield Public Works Yard, 232 West Housatonic Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The collection is open to residents of Monterey, Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, and West Stockbridge. Only computers, computer monitors, printers, keyboards, mice, and other computer peripherals will be accepted.

Disposing of unwanted computer equipment has become a problem for individuals and communities. The average life expectancy of a computer is about two years. The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition estimates that over 300 million computers will become obsolete in the United States by 2005. A typical computer processor and cathode ray tube (CRT) monitor contain five to eight pounds of lead and other heavy metals such as cadmium and mercury. Even small quantities of these persistent toxins can reach harmful levels over time because they accumulate in fatty tissues of animals, increasing in concentration as they move up the food chain. They have been linked to certain cancers and nervous

system, reproductive and developmental problems.

Computer and monitors brought to this collection will be disposed of in a way that doesn't pose a risk to human health or the environment. Working computers and monitors will be cleaned of all remaining data and sold, often in Third World countries where new equipment isn't affordable. Nonworking equipment will be separated into components, some of which will be used, while others will be recycled.

This one-time free collection is possible through generous funding from Dell Inc, in partnership with the National Recycling Coalition (NRC). CET is one of twenty community partners from across the country selected to work with Dell and the NRC to address the challenge of electronic waste. The goal is to recycle some of the backlog of computer waste.

For those who cannot participate in the November 6th collection, GoodWill Industries of the Berkshires accepts unwanted electronics and televisions at their locations in Pittsfield or Adams. Bringing these items to GoodWill Industries involves a small fee. Dell offers consumers home pickup of any brand of used computer for recycling or donation for no charge with the purchase of a new system, or for a nominal charge without purchase. For more information, visit www.dell.com/recycling.

Volunteers are needed to help with the collection in Pittsfield. For more information about this computer collection or to find out about volunteering, please contact Amy Johns at 413-445-4556, ext 14, or email her at amyj@cetonline.org.

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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CET to Provide Waste Management Assistance to Rural Communities

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has received a \$99,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, to expand and strengthen waste diversion and toxics use reduction in rural communities across western Massachusetts.

Over the next year, CET will embark on a number of initiatives to reduce waste and keep toxic products out of the trash. CET will help towns set up "Main Street" recycling in downtown areas. They will also develop strategies for safe disposal of computer monitors and fluorescent lamps and increase the use of cost-effective "recycled products." Schools can call on CET for assistance with their specific waste management needs ranging from setting up or strengthening recycling to managing electronic waste.

CET will conduct several types of collections. Nationally, 4% of what is thrown away each year falls into the category of textiles. In 2001, discarded clothes, sheets, and blankets totaled about 9.8 million tons. In partnership with GoodWill Industries, CET will organize a textile drive in Berkshire County, so that these materials can be reused or recycled. CET will also organize collection events for worn-out sneakers. Although not a huge percentage of the waste stream, there is currently an alternative to throwing them away. The collected sneakers

will be turned into a material that can be used as a surface for athletic tracks, tennis courts and playgrounds. Nike Reuse-A-Shoe is a partnership between Nike and the National Recycling Coalition. CET is one of more than thirty community participants nationwide.

Residents often have questions about how to dispose of items like humidifiers, computers, or cell phones. CET can answer questions, either by phone or by email. CET is also available to talk to groups about a range of environmental issues, including climate change, composting, creating healthy homes and gardens, and reducing waste in the office.

Most commercial and industrial lightbulbs contain mercury and require proper disposal. For rural businesses, CET is available to help with recycling these spent lightbulbs. In addition, CET can help businesses locate materials that other businesses throw away or find businesses that want items that would otherwise need to be discarded. This matchmaking service has moved over 2,000

tons of materials, saving participants more than \$100,000 in avoided disposal and purchasing costs.

Rural Development, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, has the unique responsibility of co-ordinating Federal assistance to rural areas across the nation. The Rural Development mission is to help rural Americans improve the quality of their lives. USDA Rural Development works to make sure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by building water and wastewater systems; financing decent, affordable housing; supporting electric power and rural businesses, including cooperatives; and supporting community development with information and technical assistance. With over \$61.9 million of funding provided in 2004 in Massachusetts, USDA Rural Development helps to provide a better quality of life for the rural communities of Massachusetts. The objective of the USDA solid waste management grant program is to help towns with fewer than

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10,000 residents divert waste from landfills and combustion facilities through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

"Maintaining the quality of life in rural America requires all kinds of participation. Organizations like CET make a significant difference in the life of many communities and for individuals within those communities," said Rural Development State Director David Tuttle. "The USDA is pleased to support CET's efforts to improve environmental stewardship in western Massachusetts."

"Landfilling or combusting waste creates greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming; that's just another reason to reduce waste, increase recycling, and select less toxic products," noted Laura Dubester, CET Director. "In the past decade, communities have made great strides in improving the way waste is managed by establishing recycling and waste reduction programs. Sustaining these programs and addressing emerging waste issues can bring economic, health, and environmental benefits to the entire community. Support from USDA Rural Development meets a vital need."

For more information, contact Raya Ariella at CET at 800-238-1221, ext. 17, or raya@cetonline.org.



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Sandisfield Historical Society News

On Saturday, October 9, 2004, the Sandisfield Historical Society held its annual meeting to elect four board members. It was a sad day for the Society since that was the day that Norton Fletcher stepped down from his position as president after seventeen years of dedicated service to the organization. The good news is that Norton will continue to work with the SHS as an advisory board member. We certainly do not want to lose his sense of history and knowledge of the town's past. It was an exciting day where more members than usual came to support their candidates. Norton expressed the wish that it would be great if the members present would return for some of the regular meetings.

The results of the election were as follows: Josephine Freedman, President; Marcia Ignace, Vice President; Joyce Campetti, Treasurer; and Kate Dirgo, Clerk. The following members were elected to the Advisory Board: Norton Fletcher, Kate Dirgo, Bernie Kessler, and Ron Myers.

The new president, Josephine, recognizes that for many years, there has been a small core of many hard-working, sincere, loyal individuals who have worked together to keep the organization active and afloat. Josephine's vision and goals for the Society are to have the SHS sponsor events that will present the history of

the town, the state, and the country to the community in ways that will make history fun and exciting. This can be done with hands-on historical craft activities that might interest both children and adults. The organization should also sponsor historical lectures and discussions that will be of interest to the community.

There will be many meetings and discussions with the board and the members to determine fully what the new direction should be. There is much work to be done: organizing events, protecting historical documents, maintaining the existing building, and working toward building the new extension. Step by step the membership will grow with interested people who care about the town's history, and then the tasks will not seem so overwhelming.

Everyone is invited to attend the wine and cheese party on Sunday, November 7, 2004, at the Meeting House on Route 183 South, from 2-5 p.m. This is the Society's best attended event of the year, so don't miss it. Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, November 4, 2004, if you plan to attend. Call 413-258-4786.

The members of the Sandisfield Historical Society want to acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their generosity with their donations to the September Apple Fest: Nelson's Landscaping for the mum plants, Bill and Barbara Riiska for the apples from their apple orchard, Fred and Virginia Weston and Cindy for the fresh cranberries from their cranberry bog in Carver, Massachusetts.



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Highlands Communities Initiative Events

Fostering a Local Forest Economy: Small Forest-Based Businesses as a Conservation Strategy for the Region's Woodlands

Saturday, November 6, Sanderson Academy, Ashfield, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

With the goal of forest conservation in mind, this conference looks at the many ways small forest ownerships can contribute to the local economy in creative and ecologically sustainable ways. The program will feature a range of small businesses from western Massachusetts that earn all or part of a living from the forest in an environmentally sound way. The challenges and opportunities facing these enterprises will be discussed by local resource economy and forestry experts. The conference is designed to generate recommendations from entrepreneurs and experts, and then to discuss and develop these ideas during afternoon break-out sessions.

The cost is \$20, including lunch. For registration information contact the Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative, (413) 397-8800, or download the form from www.hIGHLANDCOMMUNITIES.org.

The New Road in Town: An Introduction to Reviewing Subdivision Road Plans

Tuesday, November 9, Russell Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Reviewing the plans for new roads constitute a large portion of the Planning Board's responsibility, and road design can greatly influence the character of new developments. Familiarize

yourself with engineering terms and concepts that influence design such as sightlines, road cross-sections, and design speed. Appropriate road widths for rural environments will also be discussed. Led by Daniel Dulaski, P.E., former Amherst Town Engineer. Cost is \$5 per person.

Planning for the Future of the Farm

Tuesday, November 16, Shelburne Grange Hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

With complicated tax and inheritance laws, development pressure, and a struggling farm economy, transferring a farm to the next generation is not easy. This workshop is designed to offer specific information and practical advice to farmers about these tough topics. Creative methods of finding and supporting new farmers, the tax implications for incorporating and passing on a farm, and conservation strategies to protect the land from development will be addressed by expert speakers. This half-day workshop will also offer opportunities for farmers to share their experiences in planning for the future of their farm. \$10 per person, please register in advance.

Regional Trails Roundtable: Designing Trails for Multiple Uses

Wednesday, December 8, Meekins Library, Williamsburg, 7 p.m.

What types of trails lure hikers, bikers, horseback riders, or motorized vehicles? How can a trail system accommodate all these uses sensitively and sustainably? This roundtable meeting will bring together some of these diverse user

groups to discuss different trail uses, designs, and how multiple-use trails can work in communities. Other efforts at coordinating trail uses at sites around the state will also be discussed. \$5 per person, please register in advance.

Rowe Town Park Hike

Saturday, November 20, Rowe, 11 a.m.

A special opportunity to see and enjoy highlights of this private 1500-acre town park, including a climb to the top of Mount Adams, which offers great views of the surrounding hills and farms. This moderate two-hour hike will be led by Rowe Park Ranger Sean Loomis, and will discuss the management opportunities and challenges that this unique town resource presents. Free, please register in advance.

Smart Growth in Massachusetts: The Commonwealth Capital Initiative

Wednesday, December 1, Cummington Community House, 6 p.m.

"Smart Growth" and "Sustainable Development" are the current buzz words around the state government. The newly created Commonwealth Capital Fund consolidates many state grants into one application that rates each community's success in reaching various Smart Growth objectives. Scoring well has substantial implications in applying for state grant funds. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about and discuss how these policies affect your town. Bob Mitchell, Special Assistant for Sustainable Development in the Governor's new Office of Commonwealth Development, will talk about

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this new program and how it impacts Highlands towns. \$5 per person, please register in advance.

Subdivision Regulation Series: Small Changes That Make a Big Difference
Tuesday, December 7, Chesterfield Senior Center, 7 p.m.

Get advice and tips about Subdivision Regulations from Wayne Feiden, the Director of Planning and Development for Northampton. Knowing about application fees, submittal requirements, performance guarantees, and Homeowners' Associations will make your job much easier when you are eventually faced with reviewing a subdivision plan. Changes to the Subdivision Regulations require the approval of the Planning Board only, and small updates can dramatically improve the form and quality of developments. \$5 per person.

For more information or to register for the above events, please call (413) 268-8219 or email jchristensen@tton.org.



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Dr. Edwin Salsitz Speaks on Addiction at Gould Farm

On an autumn Saturday morning, normally his day off from Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, Dr. Ed Salsitz drove from his weekend retreat on Beartown Mountain Road to Gould Farm to talk to farm management, staff, and guests about the problems of addiction. Arriving at his destination along a scenic country route lined with a blaze of deciduous sugar maple color, he set up in the comfortable living room of the main building with pointer and slide presentation for a talk based upon his wealth of experience as a specialist in opioid therapy. Although the group assembled in a family-type gathering was informal and friendly, his subject matter was of critical and timely universal consequence.

If we think of addiction as an inner city or suburban phenomenon, today the consequences are not confined to any social, residential, or economic demographics. Even where pristine environments promote spiritual and psychological healing, Mother Nature herself has made us all alike with natural feelings, emotions, and cravings that render us vulnerable to the false sense of euphoria offered by addiction. So we, of our own volition, fill our lungs with smoke, expose our stomach linings to alcohol, inject harmful chemicals into our bloodstream, and gamble away money we need to live on to win unreasonable amounts that are not needed. The process begins with predictable characteristics of certain

individuals that may be due to inherited, genetic, physical, or mental personality tendencies toward vulnerability.

Showing a cross section of the human brain on the screen, Ed Salsitz pointed out how the deterioration of normal immunity progresses through the nerve reaction to the release of dopamine in the cortex, which, when repeated, leads to severe damage or catastrophic consequences. For example, half of all fatal car accidents are due to driving while intoxicated. Dr. Salsitz also documented case histories of patients he has treated with methadone, perhaps best known as a substitute narcotic for heroin addiction. With the steady progression of medicine and scientific research, there is at least one better miracle medicine about to become available.

Ed Salsitz has a remarkable family history of survival, documented in the book *Against All Odds*, a chilling and miraculous story of the deliverance of his parents from the horrors of the Holocaust in World War II. Here in this beautiful and peaceful countryside where they had found freedom and refuge, their son described a challenge reflected in the title of that book, because for many people the chances of living out their lives free of some form of addiction are not too good. This deserves careful attention! Self-awareness, but especially early recognition by others, should be a warning, because without the help of others most mortals do not have the will to escape the prison camp of serious addiction.

— George Emmons

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Thanks to Honest Citizen & Chief Backhaus

To the Editor:

I am a resident of Monterey, living both on Lake Buel and in New York State. I purchased a Monterey home two years ago for the many reasons that make the Berkshires so attractive. However, I am writing this letter about an incident that occurred last week which highlighted the major reason my wife and I love the Berkshires.

I was busy doing chores one day, and near the end of the day discovered that I had lost my money clip. It contained two twenty-dollar bills and a business card from a local business with just a date and time written in pencil. After a short retracing of my activities, I gave up the search realizing that the amount of money lost and the card were of little value.

Several days later, I received a telephone call from Chief Backhaus asking if I had lost "something." I described the clip, amount of money, and the card, and he told me that it was found. I was astounded. I could not believe the person who found it would attempt to return it and that our Police Chief would take the time to find the owner. I asked how he determined it was mine. He informed me that a resident or soon-to-be resident named Mr. Lombardo found it and brought it to the police office. Chief Backhaus then traced the appointment date listed on the card and tracked it to me.

My wife and I continue to be astounded at the honesty of Mr. Lombardo and the perseverance and dedication of Chief Backhaus. The entire incident reinforced my feelings about the people who live in the Berkshires and the profession-

alism of Chief Backhaus, and reaffirmed my sound decision to purchase a house here two years ago. Thank you.

— Donald M. Batista

* * *

Confession

To the Editor:

It is time to reveal the truth about that message in tar on the highway boulder along Route 23 about 100 yards toward Great Barrington from where Brett Road joins it. First, if you can read it, it says, "I love Jane." It was not done by the Reverend Abercrombie or any other leading Monterey citizen(s). And the Jane referred to was the luscious Jane Smith/Heath, a very pretty member of the Heath clan and a student at, alas, Center School.

The message was committed by three boys who lived along what is now Brett Road. It was likely done to fulfill the weekly quota of mischief. It was a hot day when we three looked at the molten road tar at the edge of 23 and the bare-faced boulder near it. "Let us write a message extolling Jane." She seemed the epitome of girlish glamour in those parts, and boys are given to liking pretty girls. People who read our message would know who it was. We thought even Jane would know, being the only Jane around.

It became a lasting testimony to a pretty school girl and three irresponsible kids. The juvenile offenders were myself, Gordon Stafford, the oldest and undoubtedly the evil instigator. To help, I had my brother Shelton and our Corashire schoolmate Donald, "Pete," Brett. To our lasting credit, we spelled all three words right. To our lasting shame, we did a bad thing. We marred the natural landscape. But boys will be boys. Amen.

— Gordon Stafford, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Town Offices.

Tuesday, November 2: Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday, November 6: CET hosts free computer disposal day. See p. 13 for location and time.

Sunday, November 7: Sandisfield Historical Society invites you to attend a wine and cheese party at the Meeting House on Rt. 183 South from 2-5 p.m. R.S.V.P. See p. 15.

Wednesday, November 10: Community Potluck Suppers resume at 6 p.m. in the Monterey Meetinghouse. Ralmon Black will share the story of the Williamsburg Flood. For more details see p. 5.

Thursday, November 11: Veterans Day. Town Hall closed, no meetings and no blood pressure clinic

Monday, November 15: All Boards quarterly meeting. 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Day, Town Hall will be closed, no meetings.

Friday, November 26: Full Moon

Saturday, November 27:

Holiday gift shopping, International artisan crafts at the Harvest Barn at Gould Farm, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. See p. 5.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Jeff Walker. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information 528-9385.

Thursday, December 9: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

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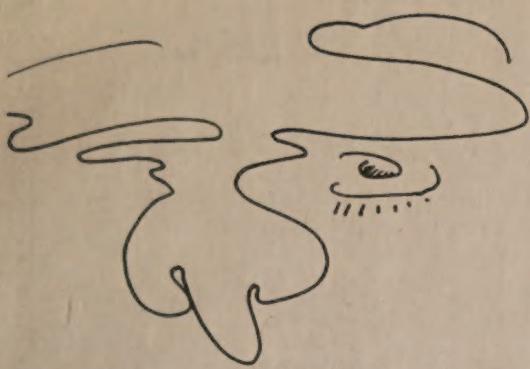
DESIGN AND PLANNING

Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design

Christopher Blair

Construction Management
Project Representation

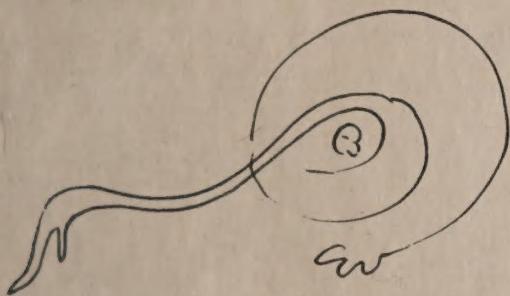
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The Observer

September 26–October 25

High temp. (10/9) 73°
 Low temp. (10/6) 30°
 Avg. high temp. 57.5°
 Avg. low temp. 40.7°
 Avg. temp. 49.1°
 Total rainfall 4.76"
 Rainfall occurred on 13 days.



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Town of Monterey

Regular Meeting Schedules of Town Boards

(Meetings are monthly and at Town Offices unless otherwise noted.)

Appeals, Board of (Peter Murkett, Chair) — As required

Assessors, Board of — Wednesdays: 4–6 p.m. (appointment required)
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. (no appt. required)

Cemetery Committee (Linda Thorpe, Chair) — Bimonthly (starting January),
1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

Conservation Commission (Chris Blair, Chair) — 2nd Monday, 6 p.m.

Health, Board of (Robert Lazzarini, Chair) — 1st & 3rd Mondays, 8 a.m.

Library Trustees (Will Marsh, Chair) — 2nd Monday (exc. July, August,
December), 7 p.m., Library

Park Commission (Leroy Thorpe, Chair) — 1st Monday, 9 a.m.

Planning Board (Gerry Shapiro, Chair) — 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m.

School District Committee (Rick Mielke, Monterey representative) — Alternate
Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Mt. Everett Reg. School, Sheffield

Select Board (Jon Sylbert, Chair) — Mondays (exc. legal holidays), 8:30 a.m.;
evenings by appt.

Regular Office Hours

(Town Offices telephone: 413-528-1443. Town information and Select Board
meeting minutes are available at the Town web site, monterey-ma.org.)

Assessors' Clerk (Pat Amstead) — Wednesdays & Saturdays, 9 a.m.–12 noon

Building Commissioner (Donald Torrico) — Mondays, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tax Collector (Mari Enoch) — Tuesdays & Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Town Clerk (Barbara Swann; Asst., Linda Thorpe) — Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.–
12:30 p.m., Town Offices

Town Offices (Bonnie Tedder, Administrative Asst.) — Monday through Friday,
9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Transfer Station Hours

Summer (During Daylight Savings)

Sunday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Winter

Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Library Hours

Monday: 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.–noon

Wednesday: 3–5 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m.–noon & 7–9 p.m.

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